

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-11 are currently pending in the application. New claims 12-16 are presented for consideration. Claims 2-5 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,894,610, to Schubert et al. (Schubert), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,572, to Fan et al. (Fan).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2-5 and 7-11 and favorable consideration of new claims 12-16 are requested.

Initially, Applicant requests reconsideration of the Declaration Under 35 CFR 1.132, filed with the May 29, 2009 Response.

The Examiner argues in the July 20, 2009 Advisory Action that "there is no showing that others of ordinary skill in the art were working on the problem and if so, for how long."

The Declarant did state in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of his Declaration that he was personally aware of problems enumerated in earlier paragraphs of his Declaration. Because of the dire consequences potentially resulting from a failure attributable to the earlier technology, these problems were certainly significant and given attention in the firefighting industry.

The Examiner states further in the Advisory Action that "there is no evidence that if person skilled in the art who were presumably working on the problem knew of the teaching of the above cited references, they would still be unable to solve the problem."

This statement is not fully understood. The question is not whether the person skilled in the art would be able to solve the noted problems, but whether it was obvious to arrive at the claimed solution. The Declarant himself, one of extraordinary skill, acknowledges that the technology to make wireless connections between components was available before the present invention was made. However, the critical analysis hinges upon whether such a solution would be obvious. As the Declarant further notes, in spite of the fact that he was well aware of the industry problems and knew of the existence of technology to make wireless connections as claimed, it did not occur to him or others in the industry to make the claimed structure until the inventor herein conceived the same.

New claims have been added to even further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

For example, claims 12 and 14 characterize the control unit as having an overall configuration and size that allows the control unit to be carried on a person, as in a pocket.

The prior art does not teach a control unit as claimed with this capability.

Claims 15 and 16 limit the control unit to a configuration wherein it operates via the wireless radio connection.

It is respectfully submitted that while wireless technology existed before Applicant's invention was made, and the industry contended with dangerous problems associated with wired components, the industry did not overcome these problems and instead dealt with the dangers associated with those systems communicating between components using bus technology. It was not until the inventor made the present

invention that the dangerous problems associated with the prior systems were adequately addressed.

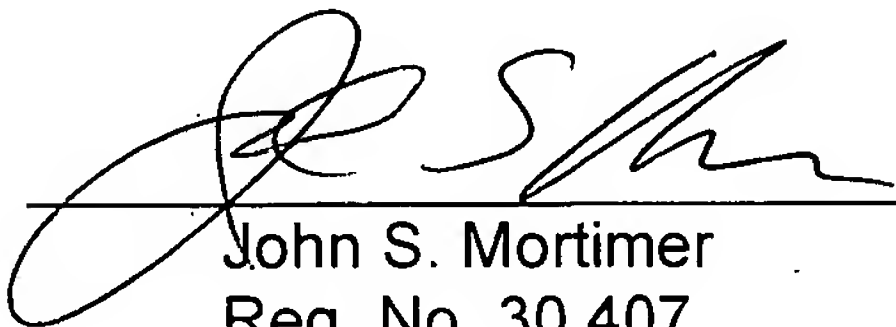
The Declaration of Mr. Dahrendorf is compelling of the fact that the inventive structure was not obvious in spite of the fact that the technological pieces to devise the same existed in the prior art and the need for such a development existed in the industry for a long time.

Accordingly, all pending claims are believed allowable. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2-5 and 7-11 and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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